

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02816 251503Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----004637 251523Z /46

O 251432Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4699
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 02816

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

JERUSALEM FOR USDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV EG IS
SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 19035

1. IN MY MEETING WITH SADAT TODAY, I AGAIN EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE THAT BOTH SIDES NOW AVOID ADDITIONAL PUBLIC EXCHANGES SO THAT PEACE PROCESS CAN BE PUT BACK ON THE TRACK. I TOLD HIM OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT OF LAST NIGHT, EXPRESSING THE PRESIDENT'S AND YOUR HOPE THAT THE RECENT PUBLIC EXCHANGES ARE BEHIND US AND THAT EVERY EFFORT NOW BE MADE TO RECAPTURE SPIRIT FOLLOWING MEETINGS BETWEEN SADAT AND BEGIN SO THAT QUIET DIPLOMACY MIGHT TACKLE THE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS. (I HAD ALREADY MADE THIS BASIC POINT TO HIM IN MY MEETING OF YESTERDAY, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT DID NOT AT THAT TIME HAVE PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT.)

2. SADAT SAID HE GENERALLY AGREED. HE NOTED THERE WILL BE AN OCTOBER MAGAZINE INTERVIEW WITH HIM, WHICH APPEARS THIS COMING FRIDAY. I EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT THIS MIGHT BE LOOKED AT WITH A VIEW TO TONING DOWN

ANY UNNECESSARY PERSONAL ATTACKS ON BEGIN. HE
SAID HE WOULD SPEAK TO OCTOBER CHIEF EDITOR, ANIS MANSOUR,
TO GO THROUGH THE INTERVIEW WITH THIS IN MIND.

3. THIS ALSO GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY TO SADAT WHAT
I HAD PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED TO VP MUBARAK, PRIMIN MAMDUH
SALEM, FONMIN KAMEL, PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SPEAKER SAYED MAREI
AND OTHERS ABOUT AVOIDING PHRASEOLOGY THAT HAS ANTI-
SEMITIC OVERTONES. I REMINDED SADAT THAT ANIS MANSOUR IS
RABID ON THE SUBJECT AND OUGHT TO BE RESTRAINED. NO ONE
CAN BLAME EGYPT FOR CRITICIZING ISRAELI POLICIES THAT IT
DISAGREES WITH, BUT ANY SUCH CRITICISM SHOULD AVOID ANTI-
SEMITIC SLURS. I MENTIONED THE RECENT MOUSTAFA AMIN
"SHYLOCK" CALUMNIATION, WHICH PRIMIN BEGIN HAD
VIEWED AS UNADULTERATED ANTI-SEMITISM. THIS HAD BEEN
TOTALLY UNNECESSARY AND REPETITION OF SUCH LANGUAGE, I
POINTED OUT, WILL ONLY HURT EGYPT'S IMAGE IN WORLD PUBLIC
OPINION.

4. SADAT GOT THE POINT. HE SAID THAT AS OF TOMORROW,
THURSDAY, THERE WILL BE NO MORE SUCH ATTACKS. HE WILL
ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS TO THAT EFFECT LATER TODAY. WE HAVE
BEEN TOLD BY MOUSA SABRI, EDITOR OF AL AKHBAR AND ONE OF
SADAT'S PRINCIPAL SPEECH WRITERS, THAT WORD HAS ALREADY
GONE OUT FROM VP MUBARAK TO AVOID LANGUAGE THAT HAS ANTI-
SEMITIC OVERTONES. EILTS
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE PLANS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO02816
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780037-0486
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780126/aaaaavjj.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 89d3a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 19035
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3719053
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PGOV, MPOL, EG, IS, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/89d3a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014